

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-3, 5, 7, and 17-19 have been amended. Claims 10-16 have been cancelled. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

I. 35 U.S.C. §102, Anticipation

Claims 1-6 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Daikoku et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,181,046 hereinafter "Daikoku") as submitted Prior art by Applicant. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Regarding amended claim 1, Daikoku does not discloses that the surfaces of the inner circumference terminals that are adjacent in the lamination direction are in contact with each other, as recited in amended claim 1. Rather, Daikoku discloses connecting the plurality of equipotential conducting layers 71 to 78 via the connecting pins 79 passing through the conducting layers 71 to 78 (see Fig. 29 and column 8, lines 20-28).

Because claims 6 and 9 depend from claim 1, they are distinguished from Daikoku for the reasons explained above.

Regarding amended claim 2, Daikoku does not discloses that the adjacent connection portions are bent or curved in the lamination direction so as to be spaced from each other, as recited in claim 2. Rather, Daikoku discloses the planer equipotential conducting layers 71 to 78 formed on the insulating substrates 68.

Regarding amended claim 3, Daikoku does not discloses that each of the plurality of connection portions is thinner than the outer circumference terminals and the inner circumference terminals in the lamination direction, as recited in amended claim 3. Rather, Daikoku discloses the equipotential conducting layers 71 to 78 having a uniform thickness and formed on the insulating substrates 68.

Because claims 4 and 5 depend from claim 3, they are distinguished from Daikoku for the reasons explained above.

Therefore, it is respectfully asserted that the rejection of claims 1-6 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102 has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has objected to claims 7-8 and 17-19 as being dependent upon rejected base claims.

Accordingly, claims 7 and 17-19 have been rewritten in independent form placing them in condition for allowance. Because claim 8 depends from claim 7 it is now in condition for allowance as well.

Conclusion

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is now in condition for allowance.

The examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

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Respectfully submitted,



Christopher P. O'Hagan
Reg. No. 46,966
Carstens & Cahoon, LLP
PO Box 802334
Dallas, TX 75380
(972) 367-2001
Attorney for Applicant